

The CASE of *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners*, *Richard Royston*, *William Wells*, *Samuel Thompson*, *Thomas Robinson*, and *William Morden*, Booksellers.



THE *CRITICI SACRI*, being a *Collection* of divers Eminent *Authors*, all or the major part of which were out of print, *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners*, by the Advice of divers Learned Divines, did undertake the Printing of them: which *Great Work* was carrying on (though with as much expedition as possible) about *six years*, and compleated in *Nine Volumes* in *Folio*, An. 1660. The *Authors* which were before sold for *Fifty* or *sixty pounds* severally, being so collected and printed *verbatim*, the Price was reduc'd to *Thirteen pounds ten shillings*. The *Charges* of which said *Work* in *Nine Volumes*, by buying several *Manuscripts*, and preparing and methodizing the *Copy* fit for the Press, amounted to about a *Thousand pounds*, besides *Paper* and *Printing*.

Upon Consideration whereof the KING's Majesty, upon the *Petition* of the said *Cornelius Bee*, was graciously pleased to grant to him and to his Assigns his *Royal Privilege* in Anno 1660. for the space of *Fourteen years* from thence next ensuing; thereby prohibiting all and every person and persons to re-print the said *Work*, or any part or parcell thereof, within His MAJESTY's Dominions, during the said Term, without the Leave and Consent of the said *Cornelius Bee*: As by the said *Privilege* (printed in the First Volume of the said *Nine*) it doth more fully and at large appear.

Notwithstanding which said *Privilege*, and likewise *Acts of Parliament*, which prohibit the reprinting of all Books, either in part or whole, without the Consent of him who makes a due Entry of the same in the *Register-Book* of the Company of Stationers at their Hall, which the said *Cornelius Bee* had done accordingly at the Cost of about *Seven pounds*; one Mr. *Matthew Pool* hath (in the said *Cornelius Bee*'s Absence in *Holland*, without his Leave and Consent) undertaken a *Work* which he calls *A Synopsis of the Critical and other Commentators upon the Bible*: in pursuance of which Design he hath nominated several Voluminous *Commentators*, and amongst them the said *CRITICKS*, of which especially he intends to make an *Epitome* with the rest. The dealing with which Voluminous *Authors* the said *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners* shall not at all look upon themselves as concerned in, provided he forbear the Injustice of taking any thing out of the said *CRITICI SACRI* in *Nine Volumes*, which they have printed at so vast a Charge. Which nevertheless if he shall pursue to doe, (besides the infringing the Right that the said *Cornelius Bee* hath in them by his MAJESTY's said *Privilege* and the said *Acts of Parliament*) he will hazard the making the said Books unfailable, and, so much as in him lies, contribute to the Ruine of him the said *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners*: too many men considering what they shall save by the smallness of the Price, rather than what they shall gain by the Goodness of the Book.

To these Considerations the said *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners* are forced to joyn this necessary Addition, viz. That in the late sad and dismal Fire in September 1666. it pleased God that there were burnt and consumed above *Thirteen hundred* of the said *CRITICI SACRI*, which, if reckoned but barely as they cost, amount to *Twelve* or *thirteen Thousand pounds*; of which Loss the said *Cornelius Bee* sustains the one half, and his said *Partners* the other half. (Besides divers other Books belonging to the said *Cornelius Bee* that were also then burnt and consumed, to the value of *Four thousand pounds*, all which lay at his Warehouse in *Sion College* near *Cripplegate*.)

Now the said *Cornelius Bee* (by this sad Accident being frustrated of his hopes and expectations of reaping the Benefit and Advantage of his great Care, Cost and pains) doth intend and hath designed to re-print the said *CRITICKS* in far better Method then this already done, and hopes and is verily persuaded that no person whatsoever, that's swayed either by Reason, Conscience or Justice, will endeavour to abridge him of or obstruct him in that lawful and laudable way of Advantage, having already suffered so extreemly in an Undertaking tending so highly to the Glory of God, the Publick Good, the Propagation of Religion, and Credit of our Nation.

And although the said Mr. *Poole*, to strengthen himself in this his Undertaking, hath gain'd the Subscriptions of divers Reverend and Learned Persons, to testify the Usefulness of this his Work, of which the said *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners* do not pretend to be Judges: yet they have reason to believe, that he never acquainted them with the said *Cornelius Bee*'s Right and Interest therein, who (he doubts not) would else have declared that they had no design to prejudice the just Title of the said *Cornelius Bee*.

The Premises rightly considered, they leave it to the Judgment of all prudent and sober persons, to judge how this Design of Mr. *Poole*'s can consist with that Honour, Conscience and common Prudence which he pretends to in his printed Papers.

So that the said *Cornelius Bee* and his *Partners* do in reason and common Justice expect that the said Mr. *Poole* should desist from that part of his Design wherein the aforesaid *Nine Volumes* are concern'd, and likewise leave the Epitomizing or other digesting of the said *CRITICI SACRI* to the said *Cornelius Bee*'s own discretion and disposal, seeing it evidently appears that they are absolutely his own proper Right and Propriety.